



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 27th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Puedo usar el sacapuntas?.... *Can I use the pencil sharpener?.....*

Kingsmead, Gayhurst, Mandeville & Grasmere Primary Schools working in partnership

JTP SPRING 2026 UPDATE

JTP

#We are LEAP

Story ExchaNGE:
Connecting Cultures,
Connecting Generations.

This second half of Spring Term sees the launch of the next Justin Thompson Project strand: Story ExchaNGE. Story ExchaNGE is a cross-community, cross-generational storytelling project designed to deepen connections between families, neighbours, and community groups. When we share our stories especially to those whose experiences differ from our own, we open a window into our world. Sharing a story is an act of generosity: it offers insight, builds empathy, and strengthens relationships. Sharing our personal stories breaks down barriers and builds trust, understanding, and belonging.

Through art, audio, music, food and, and workshops families and the local community are invited to share meaningful stories and anecdotes from their lives. Watch future newsletters for news and updates on Story ExchaNGE events.

Story Boxes Family Workshop

1. Collect a box for each participant - a shoebox or an old picture frame (or any other box with a transparent lid) An A4 or A5-size box is ideal - though you can use square boxes, too.
2. Choose a background - you could use a piece of patterned wrapping paper, old photos, an old map, or a page from a magazine.
3. Gather items to tell your story

Now it's time to create your own personal story. Gather small objects that mean or symbolise something to you. You could include things like passport photos, puzzle pieces, scrabble letters, old stamps, photos, or clippings from magazines and newspapers.

Consider tools

Glue and scissors or a craft knife to cut out fine details. To raise things up in the box to create a sense of depth, use a layer of cardboard underneath the image or objects. To hang objects from the top of the box, use wire or string.



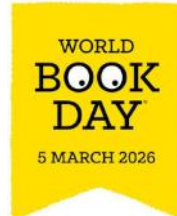
Elder Life Timeline

- **Activity:** Children and elder family members create a timeline of key life events (birthdays, moves, achievements) and share stories about each.
- **Benefits:** Builds narrative structure, memory, and personal identity.



WORLD BOOK DAY

**COME TO SCHOOL
DRESSED AS A CHARACTER
FROM A BOOK OR COMIC**



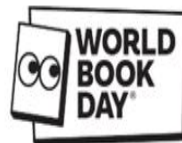
On **Thursday 5th March**, next week all four schools will be celebrating World Book Day. World Book Day is a special day when children and staff come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book or comic. So start planning your costume!

Please don't feel you have to buy a costume - we are hoping to see lots of homemade creations. You could make your costume using cardboard boxes, tin foil, an old sheet that you could draw on, face paints...whatever you have to hand at home! Get creative! Prizes will be given out at each school to the best home-made costumes.

If you need help with ideas [here's a link](#) to some ideas for how to make easy homemade costumes, and [another link](#) for a range of ideas linked to lovely children's books

NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, sponsors National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition.



DESIGN
A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN
COMPETITION



To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition. This year's winners will be selected by three very special guest judges. Deadline is Friday 27th March. Find your template and all details on how to enter at www.worldbookday.com



Follow us on Instagram: @leapfederation

KINGSMEAD'S READING CHAMPIONS JOIN TRIP TO TENERIFE!

Just before the half term brake, six of Kingsmead's Year 5 students were lucky enough to enjoy an exciting week long trip to Tenerife with their class teacher Jane. This was part of a Hackney Reading Champions visit which included children from five other Hackney primary schools, having an adventure on the Spanish island. Hackney's Music Service also had a group of Secondary School students who are part of their Classical Meets Jazz ensemble, take part in trip, making music links with older children on the island and representing Hackney's amazing musical talent.

The first days were spent in a local Spanish school, finding out more about school life there and trying out the children's Spanish language skills. There were new friends to be made in spite of the language differences and the students loved playtime with their Spanish classmates. They learned about the island's Carnival and took part in the school's marching band. They were so warmly welcomed by the staff and students of the school in Punta Brava, Puerto de la Cruz that it was quite emotional to say goodbye!

As well as experiencing school life, the children also got to venture into town, to splash in the sea pools, wander amongst the beautiful architecture, marvel at the musical skill of their fellow Hackney school students in the Classical Meets Jazz group's performance, visit the zoo, and spend a day at the beach swimming in the Atlantic.

All six children were wonderful ambassadors for Kingsmead and Hackney. They demonstrated open, curious minds and wholeheartedly threw themselves into every experience. We are very proud of them all! For many of the children attending it was their first ever trip away from home and their first trip abroad.

"It was very enjoyable and we were so lucky to go!"

Kimarni

"It was amazing to have such a fun and interesting opportunity" - Anya

A huge thank you to Jane for looking after all the children so well and her incredible dedication. We are truly grateful.



TENERIFE TRIP CONTINUED.....



FAMILY COACH SCREENTIME PARENT WORKSHOPS

Hackney's Family Coach service are hosting 4 workshops this half term around screentime, which parents might find very helpful. You can attend these sessions if you have a child with an identified SEND need who accesses a Hackney educational setting and/or lives in Hackney. :

Family Expectations Around Screentime.

Wednesday 4 March, 11 am to 12 pm at Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

Transitions Between Screentime & Different Activities.

Tuesday 10 March 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Online.

Using Screentime as a Reward or Consequence.

Thursday 19 March 12 pm to 1.30 pm. Online.

Feeling Confident to Make a Change to our Family's Screentime. Monday 23 March. 1 pm to 2.30 pm. Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

To join any, please email us confirming your child's school on familycoach@hackney.gov.uk



SPRING TERM 2026

1st half of term: 05.01.26 - 13.02.26

Half term: 16 - 20 Feb 2026

2nd half of term: 23.02.26 - 27.03.26

GREEN TOKEN RESULTS	Class	Tokens
Rec, Year 1 & 2	1A	80
Year 3 & 4	4V	185
Year 5 & 6	5F	182



GOLDEN AWARDS

NH - MORIYAH
RPG- MATILDA
RS - TOMMY

1A - WILLOW
1M - JUDE W
2L - GUI
2S - VIVIAN

3J - CLEMENT
3E - SAFIYA
4V - WHOLE CLASS
4RA- CORAL-SKYE
4RT- PHILIP

5E - CLARECIA
5F - JOSHUA
5/6D - LANA
6J- LEAH
6C - MIA

YEAR 2 LIBRARY VISIT

Year 2 were delighted to attend the grand reopening of the newly refurbished Hackney Library this week. The visit was especially meaningful, as the children created the beautiful artwork for the mural last year, which is now permanently displayed for all visitors to enjoy. Seeing their work showcased so proudly was a wonderful moment.



The opening was attended by the Mayor of Hackney, and the inspiring Dr Ronx, who spoke about the importance of reading and following your dreams. We are incredibly proud of Year 2 for their creativity and excellent behaviour on such a special occasion.

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GAYHURST'S EXTREME READING CHALLENGE

In our school library, we are creating a Reading in Extreme Places display. The idea is for children to have photos taken of themselves reading in unusual places!

What is Extreme Reading?

Extreme reading is about reading in unconventional, surprising locations or situations. The goal is to create a buzz around reading and show pupils that books can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere - whether you're upside down on a sofa, perched in a tree, cycling around the velodrome or attending a concert like two of our children pictured!



Poppy

EXTREME READING CONTINUED.....

We have already received some fantastic photos from our Gayhurst children taking part in the challenge, and we would love to see even more creative ideas!

If your child would like to take part, please send photos to: admin@gayhurst.hackney.sch.uk

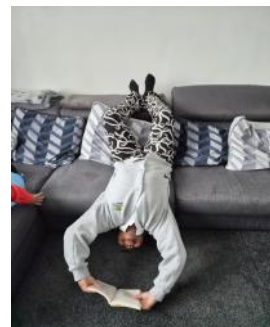
We look forward to seeing all of your wonderful and imaginative Extreme Reading moments!



Viktor



Jay



Araya - 5E



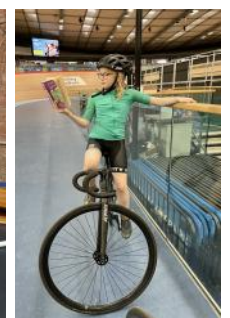
Dexter - 4V



Ira - 3J



Pandora - 3J



Betty

PTO

YEAR 1 TRIP TO HACKNEY CITY FARM

This week Year 1 took a trip to Hackney City Farm as part of their recent Science topic Animals including Humans. We had so much fun seeing a wide range of farm animals and getting to pet the goats! It was really interesting to speak with the farm staff and find out more about what the animals eat and what they like to do. We were even lucky enough to see some newborn baby piglets - they were

adorable! Afterwards we explored the farm gardens and played some fun games. Everyone had a brilliant day to remember!

"The piglets were so cute!"
- Ja'naiya
"My favourite was the goats!"
- Raphaelle
"There were chickens everywhere!"
- Nadim



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

On Wednesday the school council met. They delivered their feedback about writing across the school, so this can be shared with school leaders. It was really interesting to see the children's views; they were very positive about writing at Gayhurst. Some views were 'I love putting pen to paper' or 'I love the feeling of success when I've written something good.'

This week the school council were also looking at gathering pupil voice and making sure the children's views are heard. With this in mind, the school council have come up with a vote on the music that is played in the playground and lunch hall. This week children across the school will be taking part in a poll to vote

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED.....
from the following options of musical genres:

- Jazz
- Rock n roll
- Hip hop
- Classical
- Country



We look forward to hearing the music that wins!

CROSS COUNTRY RUN EVENT

We were so pleased to see the sun again on Tuesday for our cross-country team, as they competed over at Hackney Downs. The children worked really hard in the race and showed great determination when competing against the other schools. Well done to all of the children who took part!

'It was really fun to run competitively.' **Chanelle 6C**
'It was fun but also tiring. It felt like a long distance' **Miray 5E**

This week a letter went out to the children in Year 5 and 6 who are interested in taking part in the Hackney Schools' Challenge (running event). Please remember to return your form on Monday if your child would like to take part in the Schools' Challenge.



YEAR 5 & 6 CHILDREN

From Monday 2nd March, children in Y5 & 6 with permission to walk home alone, will be able to go home unaccompanied after Specialist Clubs and Short Extended Day at 4:45pm if parents feel this is appropriate for their child. We ask that all children continue to be collected from Long Extended Day (5:45-6:00pm) until the start of the summer term (Monday 13th April).

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Thurs 5 March** World Book Day +
3E class assembly 3pm
- Thurs 12 March** 5/6D class assembly 3pm +
Y3 & 4 #TAG opening 4:30-6pm
- Thurs 19 March** Parent & Carer Consultations 1:50-7pm
School closes at 1:30pm for all children
No clubs or Extended Day
- Fri 20 March** Comic Relief Fundraising +
Additional Parent & Carer Consultations
for NH 1:30-3:30pm
- Tues 24 March** Gymnastics Performances:
2:40pm-1M & 2L and 3pm- 3E & 6J
- Fri 27 March** Drumming & Dance Performances:
10am- **4V, 2S & 6C** and 11.30am-**1A & 5E** +
Last day of Spring term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
- Mon 30 March to Thurs 2 April** - Gayhurst Spring
Holiday camp 10 - 2pm daily